

Mr. Editor:
I request the favor of you to publish in your useful paper, the following extracts from the Minutes of the Edgefield Baptist Association.

WM. B. JOHNSON.

The Committee, to whom were referred the letters from the Churches, report:—
1. On the subject of the letter from the Edgefield Church:—

This Church states, that, notwithstanding the addition of several hundred, since the revivals of 1831, by which much wealth and many young men of talents, education, and property have been brought into the Churches of the Association; yet the spirituality of the Churches has not been improved—the contributions for benevolent objects have been very little multiplied—and the ministry diminished, rather than augmented in numbers. The Churches request, that the Association will prayerfully inquire into the cause and the remedy of this state of things.

Your Committee, having taken the subject into serious consideration, are of opinion, that the cause of this state of things is to be found in a departure of the Churches from the scriptural manner of spending the Sabbath; and in their failure to contribute liberally for the support of the ministry, and the cause of God.

In relation to the first particular, your Committee observe, that they regard the command to keep the Sabbath Day holy, as not relaxed at all under the Gospel Dispensation, but strengthened; that on this day no work is allowed, except a work of necessity, such as preparing necessary food; of mercy, such as lifting an ox out of the ditch; of piety, such as attending upon the duties of religion. They are of opinion, that the Churches are bound, in imitation of the examples set in the New Testament, to assemble as Churches on every Lord's Day, and to engage in the duties of reading the Scriptures, singing, prayer, exercise of gifts, &c., for mutual edification and growth in brotherly love, and in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The primitive Churches contributed, on this day, for the poor saints. These duties should not interfere with the public preaching of the Gospel, there being sufficient time in the day for the whole. Now, your Committee are of opinion, that as the Churches do not assemble as Churches on every Lord's Day, in their appropriate character, for the observance of the duties as stated above, they are not acting conformably to the Divine Will; that they are depriving themselves of the spiritual privileges, which they might enjoy on this day, the right exercise of which would, under the Divine blessing, increase their faith, and elevate their spirituality. The general custom of having preaching on one Lord's Day in the month, or two at most, has a tendency to begot in the minds of the members a disregard of the other Sabbaths, as days, on which duty lays no claim for strict religious service, so that those days, it is feared, are spent in idleness, travelling, or visiting.

Your Committee recommend, that the Churches be advised to consider this subject in a prayerful examination of the New Testament, by which means they may be led to return to the observance of primitive example, and consecrate the Sabbath as a day holy to the Lord; that on each return of this holy season, they may be found as a body, in the Sanctuary of God, to be blessed with its spiritual privileges, to go forth from them with renewed strength for the trials and duties of the following week.

In relation to liberal contributions, for the support of the ministry and the cause of God, your Committee are of opinion, that there is no duty more explicitly commanded in the word of God than the duty of such contributions.

1. God has ordained, that they, that preach the Gospel, shall live of the Gospel; that they, who are taught in the word, shall communicate to them, that teach in all good things. And this duty is commanded on the righteous principle, that the laborer is worthy of his hire.

The too general practice of withholding a liberal support from the Ministers of the Gospel, is a direct disobedience to the Divine command. It involves in it a robbing of God, for as God calls the Ministers to preach the Gospel, & give their time wholly to the work, and has required his Churches to provide for their support, when they fail to obey this requirement, they oblige the Ministers to engage in some worldly avocation for the support of themselves and their families; and thus God is robbed of the services of his Ministers. It involves in it a robbing of the Minister; for when his compensation is not adequate to his support, he must make extraordinary efforts to serve the Churches. For these extraordinary efforts, he receives no compensation. It manacles the officers of God's host, and unfits them for appearing like workmen that need not be ashamed. It robs the Churches themselves, as it prevents the Ministers from devoting themselves to their work, in such manner as to do the Churches the greatest good. It nourishes the spirit of covetousness, which is idolatry; for this sin consists not only in grasping at more than is lawful, but in retaining of that which is gotten, more than is meet.

Your Committee recommend that the Churches be entreated to regard this subject with deep seriousness. To inquire if they have fulfilled the Divine command in sustaining God's ministry conformably to His will. That they be affectionately entreated to retrace their steps, and to come forth with their substance to honor the Lord in the support of the Heaven-sent Band of Messengers to a guilty world. That they unfetter the leaders of the Lord's host; that they take off their manacles, and set them at liberty; that, like the Angel having the everlasting Gospel to preach, they may fly through the land with glad tidings.

2. With reference to liberal contributions for the spread of the Gospel, your Committee believe that, as the Lord's people are workers together with him, and He is working to spread the Gospel through the earth, it is their duty to work also. God is the Mighty Agent—they are the instruments. He gives them the means as stewards, which they are bound to use in obedience to His will. The command is, "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially to them that are of

the household of faith. To do good and to communicate, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. The liberal soul desireth liberal things and by liberal things he shall stand." When the Apostles went preaching the Gospel abroad, they were brought on their way by the Churches.

Now, the practice of the Churches, in sending up small contributions for the spread of the Gospel, is a departure from Gospel requirement and primitive example.

Your Committee recommend that the Churches be earnestly requested to open their hearts at the call of their Lord, that their hands may extend the needful contributions, for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Your Committee believe, that, so far as means have any influence in preserving the life of religion in the soul, these which they have now recommended, will, when spiritually observed, be attended with happy results; and that if the Churches, would go into them for the coming year, their letters will convey more pleasing intelligence at the next meeting of this Body, and a better state of things will be reported.

3. On the subject of the letter from the Callahan's Mill Church, your Committee recommend:—

1. That this Body appoint the Second Monday in November, the next Month, in connexion with its Sister the Georgia Association, to be observed by the Churches in its connexion, as a Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer, on account of the distressing Drought throughout our Land;—thesevere affliction with which the neighboring Towns of this and the State of Georgia have been recently visited—and the general state of Religious declension. And forasmuch as the above causes are general, your Committee would further recommend, that your Body, respectfully request His Excellency the Governor of this State, to proclaim a Fast to be observed throughout the State, on the above Day; and that the Moderator be requested to forward these Resolutions to His Excellency as soon as practicable. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES M. CHILES, *Chairman*.

25. The Committee on the State of Religion, report:—

That the increase in the number of persons admitted into fellowship during the last year, is rather less than in the previous year; whilst the contributions are larger. Yet the greater number of the Churches complain of leanness. The true state of things in the Body appears to be, that the spirituality of the Churches is not materially improved. The spirit of the world has gained great ascendancy among the members of the Churches, so that their attention is much engaged about things of this present time. The number of Ordained Preachers is eighteen, and of Licentiates, four, together with several Benevolent and Temperance Societies within the limits of the Body. On the whole, it appears that there is great need of returning to the spirit and practice of primitive ages.

W. B. JOHNSON, *Chairman*.

22. The Moderator also brought to the view of the Association, the South Carolina Temperance Advocate, published weekly in Columbia, at \$2.50 per annum, as a paper affording effective aid in the cause of Temperance, and worthy of the patronage of this Body. Whereupon,

Message of Gov. Polk.—The Message of Governor Polk to the Legislature of Tennessee, is a sensible one. We make the following extract on the subject of the recent bank suspensions in Tennessee:

And whatever may have been the cause of the suspension of payments by the banks at the East, it can furnish no sufficient ground for the suspension of specie payment by our banks so long as they have an ability to pay. Like individual debtors, they should meet their liabilities honestly and promptly as long as they are able to pay. What is the effect if a contrary course be adopted? A few of the banks at the East suspended, and represent to the public that they are still solvent, and do so, not from necessity, but to retain their specie; and following their example, the banks of the interior, which are also represented to be solvent, suspend also, not because they are under the necessity to do so, but simply because the Eastern banks have suspended. So that the suspension of the banks in a single city which may have indulged in excessive issues of bank paper and bank credits, and thus stimulated and promoted over action in trade, or which may have ulterior objects in view, is made to operate as a suspension of payments by all the banks of the country.—Surely if a bank suspend in Philadelphia, it is no reason for our banks to follow the example, unless they are compelled by their condition to do so.

The apprehension of the drain of their specie, can be no sufficient reason, for one of the conditions of their corporate privileges is, that they shall keep themselves at all times in a condition to meet their liabilities. When a suspension of specie payments takes place by banks, their circulation immediately depreciates in value, and the loss falls, not on the banks but on the people. The labor of the country bears the loss, whilst the banks during a period of suspension are often doing their most profitable business. It was hoped that the Bank of Tennessee, of whose ability to pay specie no doubt is entertained, would continue to do so. She did pay a day after the Union and Planter's banks had suspended; but I regret to say finally yielded to the panic around her and stopped, not from inability to pay, but as a measure of prudence. Her course is much to be regretted, and an early resumption is, in my judgement, demanded by the interests of the State. By maintaining a firm stand, honestly meeting all her engagements, and at the same time extending to her debtors every possible indulgence compatible with her safety, her character as a State institution of undoubted credit will be maintained, and, to the extent of her means to furnish it, a sound currency will be preserved. In the future management of that institution, owned as it is exclusively by the State, it should be a cardinal object, constantly kept in view, to confine her operations within her means, to meet her responsibilities promptly, and to preserve at all times her circulation in a sound state.

The suspension of payment by the Union Bank and Planter's bank, presents a grave question for the consideration of the

General Assembly, in regard to the action which should be had in relation to them. It shall be ascertained that they have, by a suspension of specie payments in 1837, or by the more recent suspension, or by any other act, subjected themselves to a forfeiture of their charters, and it shall be deemed proper to continue their corporate existence, it is suggested that the occasion may be a fit one to impose upon them such additional restrictions as the public safety may require, and as experience may have shown to be necessary and proper, as conditions of the continuance of their corporate privileges. They should be required at an early day, to be fixed by law, to resume specie payments, and restricted from declaring any dividends to the stockholders for a period of at least six months after their resumption.—It is believed that they are entirely solvent; and that they could conveniently and safely make their means available, to resume payment at an early day, and it is not doubted that they would readily yield their voluntary assent to such restrictions as the General Assembly may be of opinion to impose. If the conditions imposed shall not be assented to, it will remain for the General Assembly to consider what further proceedings it may be proper to institute consistently with the provisions of their charters.

From the Globe.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The political condition of the Republics of this continent, is a subject of equal interest to the statesman and the philanthropist. The United States look with especial concern upon the progress of events in this hemisphere, where the problem is to be solved of the capacities of man for self-government, under the system of elective representation. The Anglo-Saxon colonies on this continent had, perhaps, nothing in the science of civil Government, little change to effect in the exercises of rational liberty. Our ancestors sprang into an existence of political independence, and of religious freedom, full-armed, like the goddess of wisdom. From political science they had no lessons to receive upon the universality of popular rights and the sovereignty of popular will. They brought with them the principles of Magna Charta, of habeas corpus, and the bill of rights—the great charters of human liberties, by which *natus liber homo*, no freeman shall in any manner be proceeded against but by the judgement of his peers and by the laws of the land. In Britain was the victory of human liberties achieved, and here, as there, maxims of civil Government and of religious tolerance, have been acted upon as first principles.

To the people of South America the adoption of constitutional Government was an experiment, new and untried. The example of the United States, hastened or precipitated a revolt against colonial bondage, and with it prompted a desire to copy the forms of political institutions, which with us had succeeded to the colonial regime; differing from the Anglo-Saxon, the Spanish colonies had all to learn in the science of civil Government. If the theories of the few were correct, the many were ignorant; and all were unaccustomed to the duties and to the practice of free institutions. Not familiar with civil liberty, they still adhere to religious slavery; nor at this day have the Republics of South America learned that religious tolerance precedes civil freedom. Whilst the power of religion has been restricted to purely ritual concerns, the Constitutions of these Republics consecrate a religion of the State. The Republics of New Granada, Ecuador, and Venezuela, are, however, approaching towards the final separation of civil from spiritual affairs. This to us, is an assurance that the rapid and flattering progress which they have made in political reform and improvement, will be continued.

The past history of many, and the present condition of some, of the South American Republics, show the severe school in which they are learning lessons of political wisdom. Mexico, Guatemala and Peru, have presented alternate spectacles of anarchy and military despotism. Buenos Ayres and Uruguay are in civil war; Brazil is in revolt, and Chili wars with Peru. From this fiery ordeal they will doubtless pass, to order and tranquility, and to the exercise of the elective franchise, instead of the use of arms, the last argument of power. General education, and the liberty of the press, will eventually inspire a public and private morality, which, diffused among the people, will control their ambitions and designing chiefs.

Of the Governments of South America, as now organized, we present to our readers the following list of Presidents: Mexico, General Bustamante. Guatemala, This Republic is broken up into as many independent States, as there were formerly provinces. The Confederation is dissolved. New Granada, Dr. Marquez. Venezuela, General Paez. Ecuador, General Flores. Brazil, Don Pedro II. Emperor.—During his minority, the Empire is administered by a Regent. Buenos Ayres, General Rosas. Uruguay, General Rivera. Chili, General Prieto. Bolivia, General Velasco. Peru, General Gamarra.

Bank of Amsterdam.—The Government of Sweden first established this bank in 1657. No stock was created; but instead of this, three hundred thousand specie crowns were borrowed by the Government, and its capital, and promissory notes were given for this money, payable at sight to bearer, and carrying interest.—What was thus borrowed at four per cent was loaned at six, upon mortgage, and sometimes upon pledges. The bank was thus at once a bank of circulation, of loan, and of pledges or pawns. This last would be called, in Europe, a *mont de piété*, or Lombard bank. The administration of this bank was confined with great fidelity, and in fifty years it had acquired a fund of fifty millions.

The Government, not satisfied with this prosperous condition of the bank, or, being compelled to meet an increased expenditure, established a new bank, into

which the former was incorporated. It issued notes payable in copper ecus of about six cents value. More liberal in its discounts than the old one, this bank made large advances of its own paper to the Government and the nobility. In a short time it had issued notes to the value of six hundred millions ecus, or one hundred million wollars.

This vast circulation of paper money in Sweden produced the same results which a like circulation has caused in all other countries. A taste for luxury and expense diffused itself among all classes of society; the State increased its debt; property holders were ruined; coin disappeared from circulation.

The state of public distress continued until the accession of Gustav III, when he restored the credit of the bank by reducing its circulation, forbidding future issues, and by declaring its notes to be payable in silver. For this purpose, he borrowed in Holland a large amount of silver in ingots. The credit of the bank was restored, and its notes again passed at their nominal value.

The exigencies of the State again required increased expenditures, to meet which large emissions of paper money were made, which cost nothing. This must ever be the means of paying extraordinary debts, by banks or governments, having the power of making unlimited issues of rag money. These vast issues of notes brought with them their necessary attendants, a swift and ruinous depreciation of the notes, and the total disappearance of specie from circulation. The necessities of trade required the use of small money for change, and as specie had disappeared, the bank found it necessary to issue paper tickets, of very low denomination, which in the United States are termed ship plasters. We have thus arrived at that experience of the ruinous effects of paper money, which the States of Europe have long since learned.

The Advertiser.

EDGEFIELD C. H.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1839.

We see it stated that the Newspaper credit system ceased in Mississippi, on the first of last month, by agreement among all the printers of that State. No name is now added to the list of papers published there, unless the money in advance, for one year, is forwarded. This rule is worthy of universal imitation.

State Debts.—The debts of the States have been estimated at \$200,000,000.—The State Debt of Tennessee, is only \$2,666. That of Pennsylvania, is \$32,000,000!

According to the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, bearing date of November 1, 1839, the aggregate of all outstanding Treasury notes, amounts to \$394,180, 86.

Georgia Elections.—Col. Tenuille has been re-elected Secretary of State, Col. Thos. Haynes, Treasurer, Col. J. G. Park Comptroller General, and Mr. A. d. Horton, Surveyor General.

AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.

The Agricultural Convention assembled at Columbia, on Monday last. We know not what this body may do, but in a pamphlet which has recently been published, several things have been recommended for its consideration. The writer proposes, that it should recommend to the Legislature, the appointment of a Geological Surveyor for the State, the establishment of an Agricultural Professorship, and of an Agricultural School. Several of the States have thought proper to appoint Surveyors. Among them, may be numbered Massachusetts and Virginia.—The latter State is said to have reaped great advantages from the labors of a gentleman, Professor Rogers, highly distinguished in the walks of Science, whom she appointed for this purpose. Of the utility of these surveys, there can be no question. By the, the constituent portions of soils are ascertained, the harmony of manures to them, and mines of wealth which have lain hidden in the bosom of these sources of wealth, are to be found in our State and from them, she may derive great benefit, in the appointment of a Geological Survey.

With regard to the establishment of an Agricultural Professorship in the College on the same footing as the other Departments, we will only say, that it might be of benefit.—But whether great advantages, such as some may anticipate, would result, from it we are somewhat inclined to doubt. The course of studies pursued in the College, is already sufficiently extensive to employ all the time of the students. Even now, many of the young men acquire but a very superficial acquaintance of the various departments of knowledge, to which they give their daily attention. What really profitable knowledge could they acquire of Agriculture, in an institution, where the studies are so multifarious, and so difficult, and any one of which, is enough to employ their whole time? We fear that amid the attractive studies of Criticism, the Belles Lettres, Languages, and the abstruse Sciences, Agriculture would be a poor thing to the shade. The report of Agriculture, might prove a sincere. But if the Legislature would establish a series of this kind, with ample endowments, and would permit all the young men who chose, to attend to it, exclusively, learning Agriculture, both practically and theoretically, great good would arise. The fees for tuition, should, of course, be moderate. A Professorship, of this character, would probably, at the present time, supersede the necessity of an Agricultural School, which was also a proposal.—The benefits arising from these institutions are marked & well known. Several have been established in Europe; and are said to have been productive of good. The celebrated one at Friburg, in Switzerland, numbers among its students, natives of the various king of Europe, and of North and South America. It is very favorably spoken of by travellers, and others, and the establishment of schools of this kind, is a happy proposal, some of the States of our Union. At this school, the young men are taught by able Professors, scientifically, and at the same time, practically.

In studying Agriculture, in this manner, alone, can you gain a just and thorough knowledge. It is a mistake, to suppose that the attention of a few months to it, in a College course, can be of much advantage. Of all sciences, it is one, perhaps it requires the most sedulous and unremitting application for years, to obtain a mastery of it. It has been truly said, that the Planter's constitution is the Father of Science; and while other classes have advanced steadily in improvement, they comparatively, have stood still. The spirit of improvement, is abroad in the land, but they have inhibited a very small portion of that spirit. Do they aspire to offices of distinction, and do they desire to attain that influence in society, to which they are justly entitled? Then should they

study their profession thoroughly, as do the students of Law, Medicine, or Divinity. We trust that our Legislature will place within their power, the means of acquiring that knowledge, which is so important to them, and of thereby elevating themselves to that commanding station, for which Providence designed them.

From our Columbia Correspondent.

COLUMBIA, Nov. 20, 1839.

This Town has been unusually dull the present season, and since the suspension of specie payments by a large portion of the Banks of the country, there has been a perfect stagnation in its Cotton trade.—It is true that the Commercial Bank, greatly to its credit continues to redeem its notes but the comparatively limited amount of its discounts which its high position forces upon it, is producing with some, no little grumbling, and complaint. So it is, Columbia at present is no market for Cotton or scarcely any thing else. Money is scarce and commands almost any price. If we had the Rail Road or a good river, things, even now, would go on very smoothly. Notes are discounted only at thirty days, and the Cotton cannot be carried to Charleston, and the proceeds returned in time to meet the payments. If the Road was completed, the time would be ample. The Stores are now well supplied with Dry Goods, Groceries and Provisions, and on this day my eyes were met by a drove of as fine Western Hogs as they ever saw. So you will see that there is a fair chance for the Law-Makers of the land, to feed well. Next Monday you know, the Legislature will convene, and the Town, I believe, is ready.

The Charleston Courier of the 22nd inst. says.—The following Gentlemen were yesterday elected Directors of the South Western Rail Road Bank:—Wm. Gregg Wm. Patton, C. A. Magwood C. Edmondston, Alexander Black, J. Duvovent, James Legare, J. R. Hayes, M. C. Morehead, James Rose, Edwin P. Star, Robert Collins, D. F. Fleming.

The same paper of 23rd inst. says.—James Rose, Esq. was yesterday unanimously elected President of the South Western Rail Road Bank.

Communications.

Mr. Editor:

A champion of the Gin Shop, under the imposing name of "Cato," has undertaken, in the Charleston Courier, to enlighten the good people of South Carolina, upon their constitutional rights and privileges. He has very learnedly demonstrated, in his own opinion, that the existence of the "drum shop" is inseparable from civil liberty. He spouts in Kings Cambryses' vein about "crippled constitutions," and "polated hearts," and with the like anile drivel, concludes by delivering a most dolorous Jeremiah, upon the prospect of having the "poor people yoked by their necks." After involving himself and the question in visible darkness, he deals about him, with a most reckless hand, all the cant slang, about the rights of the people, which is every day retailed in the bar room, along with the liquor. Whether this writer is, himself, able to comprehend the question, and like some designing demagogue, is pandering to the base passions of a besotted mob, or whether his ignorance is unfeigned—whether it is his fault or his misfortune, is not for me to determine. I have only to do with his arguments—to expose them in their naked imbecility and deformity, and to show that "Cato" himself is grossly ignorant of the subject, upon which he very modestly undertakes to lecture the Legislature of S. Carolina.

"Cato" enters into a very elaborate argument to prove, what any school boy could have told him, namely, that the States has granted to Congress the right to regulate commerce. And he very triumphantly demonstrates, that the 8th section of the first article of the Constitution, which grants the power to Congress, is actually contained in the Constitution!—Now it is somewhat unfortunate for "Cato" and the drum shops, that this most excellent argument has nothing at all to do with the question before the people.—His attempt to prove, that this State cannot suppress dram shops, because Congress has the right to regulate commerce, is like the argument which proved,—that Martin Luther was not the great Reformer of the 16th century, by demonstrating that peace-porridge was not made of vetch rabbit. Whenever the question is made as to the power of the State to prohibit the importation of liquor, and thus interfere with the regulations of commerce, I will be time enough to consider "Cato's" arguments. At present I shall consider the power of the Legislature to regulate the sale of ardent spirits—the question upon which it will be called to act.

"Cato" affirms, "that there is no constitutional right to prohibit the sale and consumption of any article of commerce in which there is capital and labor, in this State; and if there be no right to prohibit, it is a flagrant usurpation of our privileges to get rid of constitutional impediments, by the evasion of a tax." Here then, we have the constitutional argument as put forth by the drum shops. "Cato" asserts, that the State has not the right to tax, to prohibition the trade in ardent spirits. Let us candidly examine this argument, and see how it will bear the test of scrutiny. The first step in the course of inquiry is, has the State any right to tax the trade at all? This question has long since been determined by our Courts. Every man who now trades in liquor in this State, pays a tax to the Government. The question then being settled, that the State has the right to impose a tax, I desire to know what article in the Constitution gives a limit to that tax? It is constitutional for the Legislature to impose a tax of fifty dollars, this is decided; when would the tax become unconstitutional? It does seem that it would require a very small portion of brain to enable any man to understand that, if the tax upon this trade, there can be any amount whatever. The power of deciding upon the amount of the tax proper to be imposed is vested